

Appl. No. 10/655,258
Amendment dated September 10, 2004
Response to Office Action of August 17, 2004

Remarks

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action of June 10, 2004. Claims 8-10 were previously withdrawn, and claims 12-22 have been withdrawn as well. Claims 1-22 are currently pending. Applicant requests further review and reconsideration in light of the following remarks.

Restriction has been required between the following inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-8, drawn to an apparatus

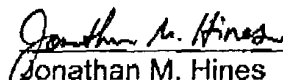
Group II: Claims 12-22, drawn to a method

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to attorney Jonathan Hines during a brief telephone interview with Examiner Alimenti on September 10, 2004. During that interview it was agreed that Group I should contain claims 1-7 and 11, and Group II should contain claims 12-22, as claim 8 was already withdrawn and claim 11 is an apparatus claim.

Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-7 and 11 for further prosecution, without traverse.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. An action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,


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